



Capital Area Humane Society

May 20, 2013

Senator Joseph Hune
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
SenJHune@senate.michigan.gov

Dear Senator:

The Capital Area Humane Society is a Lansing based Michigan grown animal welfare organization that has served the Greater Lansing Community for over 75 years. We are proud to represent very strong and progressive practices that protect companion animals as well as provide services for the citizen of our great state. In consideration for upholding the highest standards we respectfully requests that you schedule a hearing for **SB 354** and offer support to this bill as well. The practice of chamber euthanasia is highly outdated, obsolete, unnecessary, expensive, and unsafe.

Recently the American Veterinary Medical Association updated their euthanasia recommendations and the new 2013 AVMA guidelines state that they no longer recommend the use of carbon monoxide gas for "routine euthanasia of cats and dogs." The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development's own guidelines for Michigan shelters state that they accept the *AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia*. It is highly logical for **SB 354** to be therefore passed into law, carrying the message set forth by the medical experts in agriculture, veterinarians.

We can assure you that the funding available to assist agencies in any transition to the widely accepted euthanasia by injection is abundant. With only a few shelters remaining with this practice, support is readily available and will ultimately prove more efficient from a financial perspective.

The citizens in Michigan expect the highest standards of care for companion animals. According to the Humane Society of the United States over 63% of American's include pets in their household. Issues related to pets affect the majority of the citizens' in our state and country. With that in mind we ask that you schedule a hearing for **SB 354** and that you support this bill, so that all of Michigan's shelter pets receive the best care possible.

Sincerely,

Julia Palmer
President/CEO
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